

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 183371 TOSEC 080185
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FOR HODDING CARTER FROM TOM RESTON

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: TRAVELLING PRESS SUMMARY, EVENING JULY 19

NO. 20

1. WIRES

AP -- SCHWEID FROM LEEDS CASTLE. THE MEETING ENDED TODAY
WITHOUT ANY APPARENT PROGRESS BUT WITH A PLEDGE FROM VANCE
TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH MORE NEGOTIATIONS.

...SADAT DECLARED IN SUDAN THAT ISRAEL WAS "STILL DREAMING
OF EXPANSION" AND SAID IT COULD BE "THE CAUSE OF GRAVE
DAMAGE" TO THE MIDEAST.

,SRAELI SOURCES REFERRED TO THE LEEDS PARLEY...AS "A
SEMINAR" RATHER THAN A NEGOTIATING SESSION. ONE DELEGATE,
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 183371 TOSEC 080185

HOWEVER, SIAD IT WAS THE FIRST TIME HE HAD THOROUGHLY
UNDERSTOOD EGYPT'S POSITION AND FELT EGYPT UNDERSTOOD
ISRAEL.

DESPITE THE U.S. FAILURE TO BREAK THE DEADLOCK, KAMEL TOLD
REPORTERS THAT HIS GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS FOR THE WEST
BANK AND THE PALESTINIANS, DISMISSED EARLIER THIS MONTH AS-
TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE, WOULD NOW BE RECONSIDERED IN JERU-
SALEM.

KAMEL SAID ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER MOSHE DAYAN "AGREED TO

TAKE BACK THE EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL AND RECONSIDER IT."

VANCE ALSO INDICATED THAT THE EGYPTIANS WERE INCREASINGLY AWARE OF THE SECURITY MEASURES THAT ISRAEL WOULD NEED IF IT GAVE UP THE WEST BANK.

VANCE SAID THAT HE COULD NOT GUARANTEE HIS TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST WOULD PRODUCE ANOTHER FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING, LET ALONE A BREAKTHROUGH.

NO DETAILS WERE ANNOUNCED EXCEPT STOPS IN CAIRO AND JERUSALEM AND THAT VANCE IS LIKELY TO VISIT JORDAN AND SAUDI ARABIA.

"MAJOR DIFFERENCES REMAIN BETWEEN THE POSITIONS OF THE TWO SIDES," THE U.S. STATEMENT SAID, "THERE IS A LOT OF HARD WORK AHEAD. COMMON ELEMENTS IN THEIR APPROACHES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED."

VANCE WOULD NOT IDENTIFY THESE ELEMENTS AND SAID "IT IS TOO EARLY TO COME TO ANY CONCLUSIONS YET."

AMBASSADOR ALFRED L. ATHERTON JR. WILL LEAVE FOR BRUSSELS
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 183371 TOSEC 080185

ON THURSDAY AND FROM THERE TO THE MIDDLE EAST.

IN JERUSALEM, THE ISRAELI PARLIAMENT ERUPTED IN A SHOUTING MATCH BETWEEN BEGIN AND PERES.

PERES ACCUSED BEGIN OF "FILLING A PRESCRIPTION FOR ISRAEL'S ISOLATION."

BEGIN COUNTERED BY ASKING PERES IF THE LABOR LEADER HAD DISCUSSED TERRITORIAL COMPROMISE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE ARABS.

...THE PRIME MINISTER REFUSED TO ENTER INTO A DEBATE ON PEACE STRATEGY AND SAID THE KNESSET WOULD HOLD A DEBATE ON THE MIDEAST SITUATION AFTER SUNDAY'S CABINET SESSION.

REUTERS -- GUTMAN FROM ENGLAND. SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE ANNOUNCED TODAY HE WOULD FLY TO THE MIDDLE EAST IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS.

TWO DAYS OF TALKS ENDED TODAY WITH NO FIRM AGREEMENT ON THE TIME OR PLACE OF FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS, AND AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT MAJOR DIFFERENCES STILL EXISTED BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES.

IN THE MEANTIME SPECIAL ENVOY ALFRED ATHERTON HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO RESUME SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY TO PREPARE FOR

FURTHER TALKS.

MR. VANCE SAID HIS TRIP WOULD TAKE HIM TO ISRAEL, EGYPT AND POSSIBLY JORDAN AND SAUDI ARABIA. HE SAID HE WOULD REMAIN IN THE AREA LONG ENOUGH TO GET A DIALOGUE RESTARTED. HE SAID THE TALKS CENTERED ON THE FUTURE OF THE GAZA STRIP AND THE WEST BANK AND WERE MOST CANDID AND PROBING BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 183371 TOSEC 080185

...VANCE CONCEDED THAT MAJOR DIFFERENCES REMAINED.

MR. VANCE TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE IT WAS TOO EARLY TO TALK OF REAL PROGRESS.

DAYAN AND KAMEL DECLINED TO DISCUSS WHETHER THE TALKS HAD BEEN A FAILURE.

EARLIER: THE EGYPTIAN DELEGATION CRITICIZED ISRAEL FOR NOT RESPONDING TO PRESIDENT SADAT'S NEW PEACE PLAN. PROPOSALS ARE TO BE DISCUSSED BY THE ISRAELI CABINET ON SUNDAY.

MR. SADAT SAID THE LEEDS CASTLE TALKS "OFFER ISRAEL ANOTHER CHANCE TO OVERCOME LEGENDS OF THE PAST AND TO PROVE HER READINESS AND SERIOUSNESS TO RESPOND TO THE PEACE QUEST."

FAILURE BY ISRAEL TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THE CURRENT PEACE EFFORTS WILL SERIOUSLY HURT THE PEACE PROCESS, HE ADDED.

UPI -- NO ANDERSON.

TV

(1) CBS (KALB FROM LEEDS)

MUDD: THE ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTERS TODAY ENDED THEIR LATEST ROUND OF PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT A FINAL FACE-TO-FACE MEETING. INSTEAD, SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE MET SEPARATELY WITH EACH MAN...

KALB: SAYING THESE WERE THE MOST CANDID AND PROBING TALKS
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 183371 TOSEC 080185

HE HAD EVER WITNESSED BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL, SECRETARY VANCE ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD BE RETURNING TO THE MIDDLE EAST IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS AND HE EXPECTS ANOTHER ROUND OF TALKS SIMILAR TO THESE HERE AT LEEDS CASTLE TO TAKE PLACE

AT THAT TIME, ALTHOUGH OBVIOUSLY HE CANNOT GUARANTEE IT. MEANTIME HE IS SENDING HIS ROVING AMBASSADOR ALFRED ATHERTON BACK TO THAT AREA JUST TO KEEP UP THE MOMENTUM.

DURING A CONCLUDING NEWS CONFERENCE HERE, VANCE SAID MOST OF THE TALKING WAS DONE BY THE EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTERS AND THEY FOCUSED IN PART ON THE KEY QUESTION OF SECURITY FOR ISRAEL IF THERE IS TO BE ANY AGREEMENT AT ALL.

--VANCE: "ONE OF THE ISSUES, AS YOU MIGHT OBVIOUSLY EXPECT, THAT WAS DISCUSSED IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL WAS THE QUESTION OF SECURITY BECAUSE THAT IS ONE OF THE KEY ISSUES. AND I WOULD SAY THAT A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT WAS SAID ABOUT THAT ISSUE. I WOULD THINK THAT WHAT IS SAID WOULD GIVE CONFIDENCE TO ISRAEL THAT THIS PROBLEM IS BEING SERIOUSLY ADDRESSED, AND MUST BE SATISFACTORILY IF THERE IS TO BE A SETTLEMENT."

KALB: AT NO POINT DID VANCE SAY THERE WAS PROGRESS ON ANY OF THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES -- THE CORE PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES REMAIN. THOUGH THE SECRETARY TRIED TO STRIKE A GENERALLY UPBEAT MOOD, HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IF THERE IS A DEADLOCK FURTHER DOWN THE DIPLOMATIC ROAD HE WOULD BE PREPARED ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES TO PRESENT A COMPROMISE PEACE PLAN. EGYPTIAN DIPLOMATS GREET THIS PROSPECT WITH PLEASURE BECAUSE THEY ASSUME THAT AN AMERICAN PLAN WOULD BE CLOSER TO THEIRS THAN TO THE ISRAELIS, WHICH IS EXACTLY WHY THE ISRAELIS VIEW THAT PROSPECT WITH EXTREME NERVOUSNESS.

MUDD: THE NEXT ROUND OF ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN TALKS IS EXPECTED TO BE HELD IN THE ISRAELI-OCCUPIED TOWN OF EL ARISH, AND IT UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 183371 TOSEC 080185

IS REPORTED THAT THIS TOWN MIGHT BECOME A MAJOR ISRAELI CONCESSION IN THE PROTRACTED PEACE EFFORT . . .

(2) NBC (JAMISON FROM LEEDS)

BRINKLEY: IN LEEDS CASTLE IN ENGLAND, THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF EGYPT AND ISRAEL ENDED THEIR MEETING TODAY STILL WIDELY SEPARATED BY MAJOR DIFFERENCES. SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE WAS THERE . . .

JAMISON: VANCE MET REPORTERS AFTER THE TALKS ENDED, AND DESPITE THE FACT HE COULD NOT ANNOUNCE THAT EGYPT AND ISRAEL HAD AGREED TO RESUME FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS, THE SECRETARY SAID THAT BY SOME DEFINITIONS THE MEETING HAD PRODUCED PROGRESS.

--VANCE: "I THINK THAT THE MERE HOLDING OF THE MEETINGS HERE IN A SENSE IS PROGRESS. IF YOU WOULD ASK THE QUESTION

IN TERMS 'WERE THERE ANY DECISIONS TAKEN WHICH IN THE NORMAL SENSE OF THE WORD WOULD MEAN PROGRESS,' I WOULD HAVE TO ANSWER IT NO."

JAMISON: VANCE SAID HE WOULD TRAVEL TO THE MIDDLE EAST IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS, AND HE IS DISPATCHING ASSISTANT SECRETARY ALFRED ATHERTON TO ARRANGE THE DISCUSSION.

EGYPT'S FOREIGN MINISTER KAMEL INDICATED TO VANCE THAT HE WOULD RECOMMEND FURTHER TALKS IN LINE WITH THE SECRETARY'S TIMETABLE. ISRAEL'S DAYAN SAID HE WAS READY AS WELL FOR ANOTHER MEETING IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN, HE SAID, THAT ISRAEL HAS MADE ANY CONCESSIONS.

--DAYAN: "NONE OF THE PARTIES WAS REALLY ASKED TO GET ANY UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 183371 TOSEC 080185

OR GIVE ANY CONCRETE ANSWERS, AND WE DIDN'T GIVE ANY GROUND AND WE DIDN'T ASK ANY GROUND TO BE GIVEN BY THE EGYPTIANS."

JAMISON: SECRETARY VANCE SAID THAT AT THE END OF THIS SESSION THE EGYPTIANS AND ISRAELIS ARE STILL FAR APART ON THE MAIN ISSUES OF THE WEST BANK, THE PALESTINIANS WHO LIVE THERE AND THE FUTURE OF THE GAZA STRIP. AND SO THE NEXT MEETING IS LIKELY TO BE LITTLE MORE THAN ANOTHER EXPLORATORY DISCUSSION. BUT AFTER SIX MONTHS OF NO DISCUSSIONS, THE UNITED STATES SEES THAT AS PROGRESS.

BRINKLEY: EGYPT'S PRESIDENT SADAT SAID IN A SPEECH TODAY THAT ISRAEL STILL DREAMS OF EXPANSION AND PREFERS HOLDING ARAB TERRITORY TO PEACE. BUT HE SAID HE WOULD CONTINUE HIS EFFORTS UNTIL IT IS PROVED TO THE WORLD THAT ISRAEL IS INCAPABLE OF TAKING THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR PEACE.

(NOTE: SUCCEEDING REPORT FROM ISRAEL ON ENCOUNTER BETWEEN BEGIN AND PERES IN PARLIAMENT.)

(3) ABC (DUNSMORE FROM LEEDS)

JENNINGS: OVERSEAS TONIGHT, HERE IN LONDON, THE MIDDLE EAST MEETING OF EGYPTIANS, ISRAELIS AND AMERICANS HAS ENDED. BEFORE THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS MET WITH SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE AT A WELL-GUARDED ENGLISH CASTLE, OPTIMISM WAS IN REASONABLY SHORT SUPPLY. NOW IT APPEARS THE TALKS HAVE NOT ENDED IN FAILURE. THEY MAY HAVE INCHED THE PEACE PROCESS FORWARD, IF ONLY BY DECIDING ON MORE MOTION...

DUNSMORE: THE MEETING HERE HAS ACCOMPLISHED ITS PRIMARY PURPOSE. IT BROKE THE STALEMATE OF SIX MONTHS, AND ENOUGH COMMON GROUND WAS IDENTIFIED TO JUSTIFY FUTURE DIRECT TALKS. AT A NEWS CONFERENCE TODAY, VANCE ANNOUNCED HE'S SENDING HIS SPECIAL AMBASSADOR ATHERTON TO THE MIDEAST TO SET UP

THE NEXT PHASE. VANCE HIMSELF WILL GO TO THE AREA IN ABOUT
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 08 STATE 183371 TOSEC 080185

TWO WEEKS TO PARTICIPATE IN STILL ANOTHER FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING. AS THAT TRIP WAS BASICALLY IN THE WORKS BEFORE THIS MEETING, IT'S HARDLY A MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENT. AND VANCE HIMSELF WAS QUITE CAUTIOUS ABOUT ASSESSING THE RESULTS OF THE LAST TWO DAYS.

--VANCE: "I THINK THAT THE MERE HOLDING OF THE MEETINGS HERE IN A SENSE IS PROGRESS. IF YOU WOULD ASK THE QUESTION IN TERMS OF 'WERE THERE ANY DECISIONS TAKEN WHICH IN THE NORMAL SENSE OF THE WORD WOULD MEAN PROGRESS,' I WOULD SAY THE ANSWER IS NO. BUT I THINK IT IS TOO EARLY FOR THAT QUESTION TO HAVE AN ANSWER. I THINK THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION WILL HAVE TO COME AT A LATER MEETING, BY WHICH TIME THE PARTIES WILL HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO REFLECT UPON WHAT WAS BROUGHT OUT IN THE EXCHANGES BETWEEN THEM HERE AND SEE WHAT THE RESPONSES ARE WHEN WE SIT DOWN NEXT TIME."

DUNSMORE: HOWEVER, IN INTERVIEWS WITH ITN'S PETER SNOW, BOTH KAMEL AND DAYAN WERE IF ANYTHING A LITTLE MORE POSITIVE.

--DAYAN: "WE HAVEN'T REACHED ANY TACTICAL AGREEMENT ABOUT ANY POINT. BUT I DO THINK THAT IT WAS A CONSTRUCTIVE MEETING AND THAT WE ARE CLOSER NOW."

(CUT TO FILM CLIP OF KAMEL)

SNOW: "HAVE YOU AND THE ISRAELIS COME ANY CLOSER?"

--SNOW: "HAVE YOU AND THE ISRAELIS COME ANY CLOSER?"

--KAMEL: "NO, I CAN'T SAY THAT. BUT AT LEAST, I MEAN, MINISTER DAYAN HAS HEARD OUR POINTS OF VIEW AND HE UNDERSTOOD OUR PROPOSAL AND HE'S GOING TO GO BACK WITH IT TO UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 09 STATE 183371 TOSEC 080185

THE CABINET. AND WE HOPE AFTER THEY HAVE LOOKED INTO OUR IDEAS AND VIEWS THAT THERE WILL BE A CHANGE IN THEIR ATTITUDE."

DUNSMORE: ON HIS MIDEAST TRIP VANCE WILL MEET SEPARATELY WITH BEGIN AND SADAT. HE WILL THEN ATTEND ANOTHER MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS, TO WHICH IT IS EXPECTED SOME MILITARY EXPERTS WILL BE ADDED. NO SITE HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED FOR THAT MEETING, ALTHOUGH EL ARISH IN THE ISRAELI-OCCUPIED SINAI DESERT HAS FREQUENTLY BEEN MENTIONED.

IF ALL OF THIS SOUNDS A LITTLE THIN, IT IS. THE DIFFERENCES

BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES ARE STILL VERY GREAT. BUT THE POINT IS THE U.S. IS PRESENTLY ENGAGED IN A RESCUE OPERATION WHERE FOR THE MOMENT THE BEST THAT CAN BE HOPED FOR IS TO KEEP THE PARTIES TALKING.

JENNINGS: EGYPT'S PRESIDENT SADAT SAID TODAY THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT PREFERENCES TERRITORY TO PEACE. HE SAID IT BEFORE, REFERRING SPECIFICALLY TO THE ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER. MR. SADAT HAS MADE IT CLEAR HE'D RATHER DEAL WITH ANY OTHER ISRAELI BUT MR. BEGIN, AND HE HAS. ONE OF THOSE HE'S SPOKEN TO RECENTLY WAS THE LEADER OF THE ISRAELI OPPOSITION, SHIMON PERES. TODAY IN THE ISRAELI PARLIAMENT, MR. BEGIN AND MR. PERES DISAGREED...

(NOTE: SUCCEEDING REPORT AGAIN ON BEGIN-PERES SHOUTING MATCH, THEN WENT INTO PIECE ON EL ARISH, REPORTER STATING "ABC NEWS HAS LEARNED THAT ISRAEL IS PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE THE IMMEDIATE RETURN OF EL ARISH TO EGYPT IN EXCHANGE FOR A RECIPROCAL GESTURE OF EGYPT'S PART. THE GESTURE BEING PROPOSED BY ISRAEL IS THAT EGYPT PUBLICLY ANNOUNCE NOW ITS INTENTION OF LETTING ISRAEL'S SINAI SETTLEMENTS NORTH OF HERE STAY IN PLACE EVEN AFTER A FINAL ISRAEL WITHDRAWAL FROM THE SINAI . . .")

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 10 STATE 183371 TOSEC 080185

CHRISTOPHER

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